

Remarks

Claims 1 - 31 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 29 and 31 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 29 and 31 have been amended herein to obviate these objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 22-26 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Karwath et al.

Karwath was an international application (IA) filed before Nov. 29, 2000. As a result, the §102(e) date of Karwath is the §371(c)(1), (2) and (4) date of December 12, 2000. *See*, attached M.P.E.P. §706.02(f)(1).

The present application has an earlier effective filing date of May 9, 2000 as a result of the claim to priority pursuant to §119(e) of US 60/202,587, filed May 9, 2000.

Because the effective filing date of the present application predates the §102(e) date of Karwath, this rejection is improper. Reconsideration of these claim rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sternberg '078 in view of Karwath. In view of the preceding argument regarding the §102(e) date of Karwath, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Sternberg and Karwath is not proper. Because the effective filing date of the present application predates the §102(e) date of Karwath, Karwath is not an allowable reference to support a §103(a) rejection. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

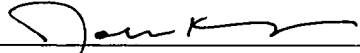
CONCLUSION

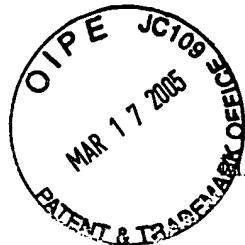
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the pending claims.

Please direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

Dated: March 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys

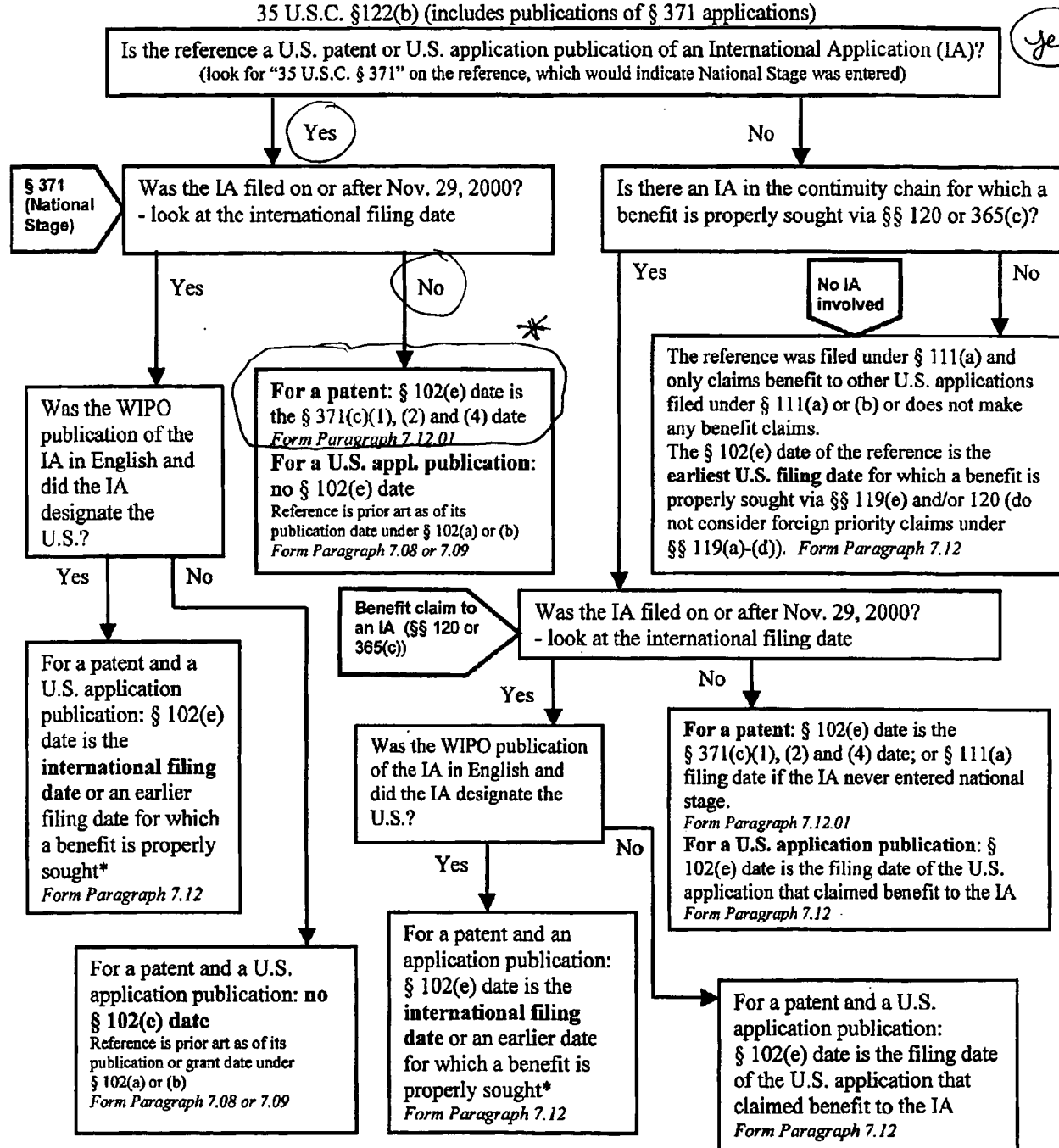
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FLOWCHARTS FOR 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) DATES:

Apply to all applications and patents, whenever filed

Chart I: For U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b) (includes publications of § 371 applications)



* Consider benefit claims properly made under § 119(e) to U.S. provisional applications, § 120 to U.S. nonprovisional applications, and § 365(c) involving IAs. Do NOT consider foreign priority claims.